

Remarks

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-20 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections at an early date is requested.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 18 may be found in prior claim 2 and the specification at page 2, lines 32-34.

Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0172600).

The object of the present invention is "to provide a device and a method for taking liquid or gaseous samples from containers ... without any dead volume and under reliably sterile conditions." The device disclosed by Anderson is not able to work without a relatively large dead volume because liquids remaining in the discharge line can not be discharged. This is because the supply line and the discharge line are not in direct communication with each other.

The present invention provides a second container that is capable of performing the discharge of the sample without dead volume. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recited that the lines are connected directly to a second container which receives the sample and is completely isolated from the rest of the medium during the discharge of the gas. Anderson does not disclose a second container that is completely isolated from the rest of the medium, and, thus, no separate container with a non-return valve is disclosed.

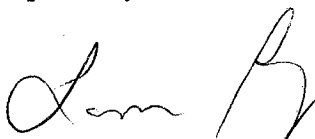
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For these reasons, Applicants believe that Anderson does not make the present invention obvious.

Therefore, all pending claims should now be allowable. Allowance of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-20 at an early date is respectfully requested.

A Credit Card Payment is being submitted via EFS-Web authorizing payment in the amount of \$555.00 for a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3) for a three-month extension, and a Request for Extension of Time is enclosed. This amount is believed to be correct, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,



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